

(19) Federal Republic  
of Germany

(12) Patent Specification

(51) Int. Cl. 7:

(10) DE 199 00 252 C1

A 63 B 55/10

A 63 B 55/04

German Patent and  
Trademark Office

(21) File no.: 199 00 252.5-15

(22) Appl. date: 7. 1. 1999

(43) Publ. date: -

(45) Publication 20. 1.2000

date of grant

of patent

Opposition can be entered within 3 months of publication of the grant

(66) Internal priority:

198 22 135.5

16.05.1998

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(56) Printed documents taken into account for the  
assessment of patentability:

DE 89 04 869 U1

US 54 74 191

US 32 32 503

US 31 72 585

US 27 37 990

JP 37-9 251

(54) Device for holding and/or carrying golf clubs

(57) A device for holding and/or carrying golf clubs (6) has clamping disks (4,5) centrally secured with axial spacing on a core rod (1) to hold several golf clubs (6) at the periphery (4a; 5a), a handle (8) secured in the area of an upper clamping disk (4) and a foot disk (2) with ground spike (3) attached to the lower end of the core rod (1).

In order to allow ergonomically favourable handling while placing little physical stress on the user, and achieve a small weight and a favourable position of the centre of gravity, it is proposed that the handle (8) in the form of a rigid stock grip (9) is connected to the core rod (1), the stick shaft (9a) being secured to this perpendicular to the axis (1a) of the core rod (1) and in that an upper clamping disk (4) is attached on the core rod (1) in the area opposite the upper handle-end (8a), and a lower clamping disk (5), in the area opposite the lower handle-end (8b), each of which consists of elastic light materials.

## Description

The invention relates to a device for holding and/or carrying golf clubs according to the features of the preamble in claim 1.

5 In golf, bag-like receptacles are transported together with the clubs to the golf course and on the golf course, along with all other implements, on a buggy. During play, the golfer carries the clubs in a sheath-type container on a belt over the shoulder or pulls or drives a buggy. As soon as a substantial number of golf clubs has accumulated, the individual weights of which make a  
10 significant difference due to the specific development of the club head, not only does a greater load result, but also greater difficulty is experienced in removing the carrying device from the shoulder or putting the cart on one side and removing a golf club to be selected for a particular shot.

A device for holding and carrying golf clubs is known (DE 89 04 869 U1)  
15 which has a carrying rod on which two clamping disks are provided, arranged axially spaced for the golf clubs. The upper clamping disk is secured to the upper end of the carrying rod and the lower supporting disk in the area of the lower end of the carrying rod near to the foot disk. This results in a great distance between the upper clamping disk and the lower supporting disk, so  
20 that it becomes relatively difficult to thread in a golf club and also to remove it again. Moreover, the known design does not take into account the centre of gravity of golf clubs, the club heads of which determine the one-sided centre of gravity. The centre of gravity of the individual golf club and of the bundle of several golf clubs therefore lies far above the upper clamping disk, the  
25 unfavourable conveyance of which is that it is very uncertain at what point the very long carrying strap of the device is to be gripped.

Although another known device for holding and carrying golf clubs (US 5,474,191) avoids the disadvantage of an ergonomically unfavourable point of contact in holding and carrying the device, but has the  
30 other disadvantage that the access space to the handle lies below the upper clamping disk, which results in unfavourable ergonomic handling properties.

Moreover, the arrangement of the handle limits the usable peripheral area for further golf clubs.

Another known device for holding and carrying golf clubs (US 3,172,585) uses individual clips secured around an upper holding disk, into which,  
5 however, the golf club can be only inserted by threading-in from above, so that introduction and removal require lengthy movements.

A device for holding and carrying is also known (JP-GM 37-92 51) in which the carrying handle together with the upper clamping disk forms a unit from which the carrying handle is continued as far as the core rod and is  
10 secured there. However, the carrying handles are located relatively high here because the entire device is supplemented by an umbrella, so that the person can hold the device up high taking into account the overall centre of gravity.

The object of the invention is to create a device for holding and/or carrying golf clubs with ergonomically favourable handling, small physical  
15 stress on the user, small weight and favourable centre of gravity position for a holding and carrying device that is full or partly loaded.

The object is achieved according to the invention by the characterizing features of claim 1. The associated small distance between the two clamping disks permits an ergonomically easy threading-in of the golf club into both  
20 clamping disks lying relatively close together, the handle taking into consideration the upper centre of gravity of the golf club bundle. The length of the grip is such that the point of contact of the hand lies near to the centre of gravity. Any torque that might occur can therefore be compensated for by the position of the hand on the long grip.

25 A saving in weight and desired properties further result from the clamping disks being made of rubber.

A version provides that the upper clamping disk is connected to the core rod via a centric opening for the core rod, to which an axial recess joins, by means of a plug knob. Thus the overall height of the upper clamping disk is  
30 less and there is a saving of injection-moulding material.

As an aid to mounting and the alignment of all clamping slots of both clamping disks, it is provided that the upper clamping disk and/or the lower

clamping disk each has a radial sight at the periphery for the alignment of the clamping disks relative to one another in relation to the clamping slots distributed at the periphery for the respective passage of a golf club shaft.

For production-engineering reasons associated with economy of manufacture, it is advantageous if the lower clamping disk is the same shape as the upper clamping disk.

According to other features it is provided that the lower and/or the upper clamping disk is additionally provided at the periphery, apart from the clamping slots for a golf club shaft, with angled incisions which each run radially and are arranged between two adjacent clamping slots for the golf club shafts. The clamping action of the clamping slots can thereby be increased and the pushing-in of the clubs made easier.

It is additionally provided that the incisions are arranged sunk vis-à-vis the end-surface of the lower and/or upper clamping disk. The reduction thereby achieved in the thickness of the respective clamping disk also contributes to the increase in the spring effect on both sides of a clamping slot.

Embodiments of the invention are represented below in the drawings and explained in more detail.

There are shown in:

**Fig. 1** a perspective view of the device, with golf clubs,

**Fig. 2** the device in carrying position, in side view,

**Fig. 3A** a view from above onto the upper clamping disk,

**Fig. 3B** an axial section "A" through the clamping disk according to

**Fig. 3A,**

**Fig. 3C** a view from below towards the upper clamping disk according to the **Figs. 3A** and **3B,**

**Fig. 4A** a view from above onto the lower clamping disk,

**Fig. 4B** an axial section "A" through the lower clamping disk and

**Fig. 4C** a view from below towards the lower clamping disk according to the **Figs. 4A** and **4B.**

The device allows the carrying, removal and replacement of individual golf clubs 6. Up to seven golf clubs 6 can be accommodated. By simply inserting the apparatus into the ground by means of a foot disk 2, this device also spares the respective user's back.

5        The device weighs little (under 950 g) and allows the golfer to remain upright while removing the golf clubs 6 one at a time and replacing them. All the components are arranged around a core rod 1. The golfer positions the device by means of the foot disk 2 and a ground spike 3 at each location and on any slope on the fairways.

10        On the core rod 1 an upper clamping disk 4 and a lower clamping disk 5 are secured with a secured relation to a handle 8 concentrically to the axis 1a of the core rod 1.

      The different weights of the golf clubs 6 with differently shaped heavy golf club heads 6a and very largely uniform golf club shafts 6b bring about a  
15        torque around the handle 8. In order to compensate for this torque, the handle 8 is developed as a balanced grip so that the hand can quite automatically encompass the handle 8 where a moment equilibrium is established. Compensation for the torque is created by the upper clamping disk 4 being secured on the core rod 1 in the area opposite the upper handle-  
20        end 8a and the lower clamping disk 5 in the area opposite the lower handle-end 8b, each of which consists of elastic light materials.

      The handle 8 also carries an engraved nameplate 8c with the owner's name.

      The clamping disks 4 and 5 are different in design. However, both are  
25        made of rubber (such as e.g. hard rubber). The handle 8 is in the shape of a rigid stock grip 9 which is secured via a stick shaft 9a perpendicular to the axis 1a of the core rod 1.

      The upper clamping disk 4 is connected to the core rod 1 via a centric opening 10 for the core rod 1, to which axial recess 10a joins, by means of a  
30        plug knob 11. At the upper clamping disk 4 and/or at the lower clamping disk 5, respective sights 12 for the alignment of the clamping disks 4, 5

relative to one another in relation to the clamping slots **7** are distributed at the periphery **4a** or **5a** for the passage of a golf club shaft **6b**.

The lower clamping disk **5** is secured on the core rod **1** in a similar type of attachment.

5        The lower clamping disk **5** can be designed with the same shape as the upper clamping disk **4**.

Flexibly designed clamping holes **7a** are worked in at the clamping disks **4** and **5** through the clamping slots **7** in the periphery **4a** or **5a**, the golf club **6** being pushed firstly in each case into the lower clamping slot **7** of the clamping disk **5** and then into the respective clamping slot **7** of the upper clamping disk **4**. The golf club **6** is then pulled up (the golf club shafts **6b** are slightly conical), as a result of which the golf club **6** in question is firmly anchored in the device. Any accelerations cannot loosen the golf club **6** from its holder.

15        The device can be handled while the golfer is upright and need not be placed on the shoulder, pulled or pushed.

The lower clamping disk **5** can additionally be provided at the periphery **5a**, apart from the clamping slots **7** for the golf club shafts **6b**, with angled incisions **13**. These incisions **13** each run radially and are arranged between two adjacent clamping slots **7**. The incisions **13** are sunk vis-à-vis the end-surfaces **14** of the lower and/or upper clamping disk **4** or **5** (cf. Figs. 3A to 4C).

The clamping holes **7a** and the end-surface **14** expediently each have rounded corners **15** or **16** respectively, on the one hand to make it easier to push in the golf club shafts **6b** and on the other hand to create appealing design through smoothness of form.

#### List of reference numbers

30	1	core rod
	1a	axis of the core rod
	2	foot disk

	3	ground spike
	4	upper clamping disk
	4a	periphery
	5	lower clamping disk
5	5a	periphery
	6	golf clubs
	6a	golf club head
	6b	golf club shaft
	7	clamping slot
10	7a	clamping hole
	8	handle
	8a	upper handle-end
	8b	lower handle-end
	8c	nameplate
15	9	rigid stock grip
	9a	grip shaft
	10	centric opening
	10a	axial recess
	11	plug knob
20	12	sight
	13	angled incision
	14	end-surface
	15	rounded corner
	16	rounded corner
25		

### Claims

1. Device for holding and/or carrying golf clubs, with clamping disks  
centrally arranged on a core rod with axial spacing to hold several golf  
clubs at the periphery, a handle fixed in the area of an upper clamping  
disk and a foot disk with ground spike attached to the lower end of the  
core rod, **characterized in that** the handle (8) in the form of a rigid stock

grip (9) is connected to the core rod (1), the stick shaft (9a) being secured to this perpendicular to the axis (1a) of the core rod (1) and in that an upper clamping disk (4) is attached on the core rod (1) in the area opposite the upper handle-end (8a), and a lower clamping disk (5), in the area opposite the lower handle-end (8b), each of which consists of elastic light materials.

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the clamping disks (4; 5) are made of rubber.

3. Device according to one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the upper clamping disk (4) is connected to the core rod (1) via a centric opening (10) for the core rod (1) to which an axial recess (10a) joins, by means of a plug knob (11).

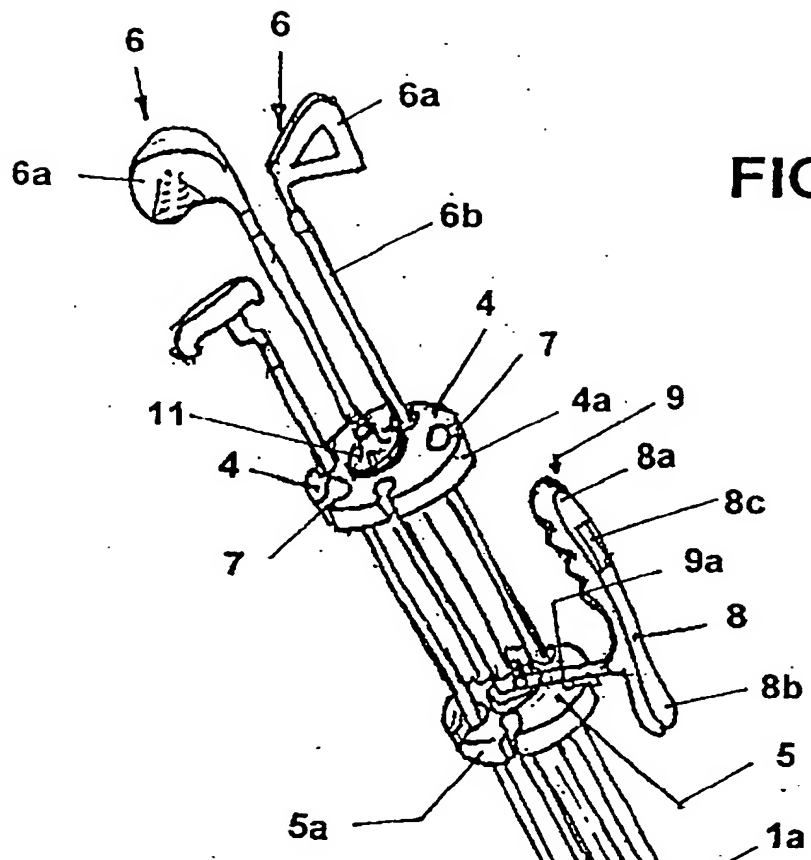
4. Device according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that at the periphery (4a; 5a) the upper clamping disk (4) and/or the lower clamping disk (5) each have a radial sight (12) for the alignment of the clamping disks (4, 5) relative to one another in relation to the clamping slots (7) distributed at the periphery (4a; 5a) for the respective passage of a golf club shaft (6b).

5. Device according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the lower clamping disk (5) is designed with the same shape as the upper clamping disk (4).

6. Device according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that at the periphery (5a; 4a) the lower clamping disk (5) and/or the upper clamping disk (4) is additionally provided, apart from the clamping slots (7) for golf club shaft (6b), with angled incisions (13), each of which run radially and are arranged between two adjacent clamping slots (7) for the golf club shafts (6b).

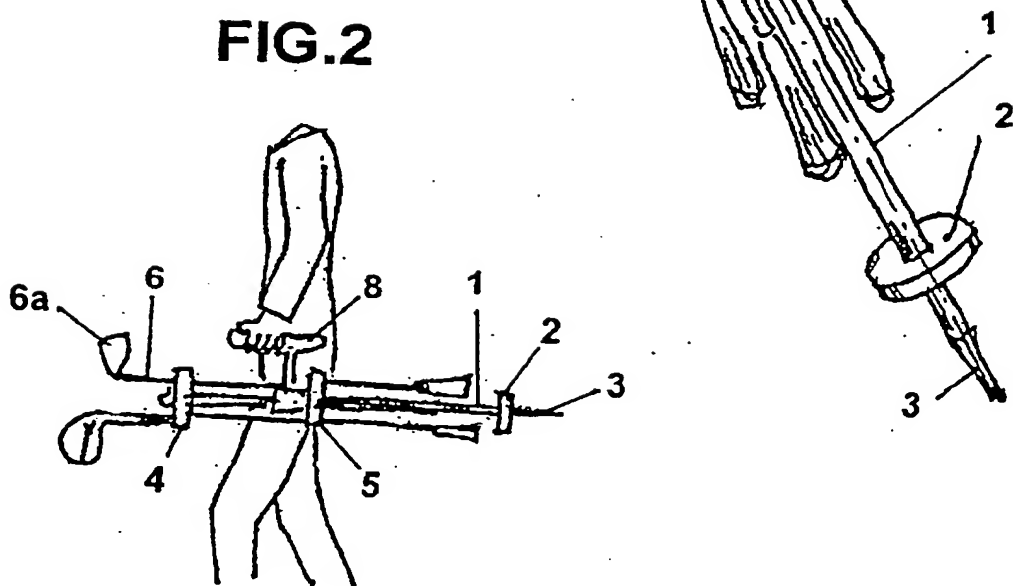
7. Device according to claim 6, characterized in that the incisions (13) are sunk vis-à-vis the end-surface (14) of the lower and/or upper clamping disk (4; 5).





**FIG.1**

**FIG.2**



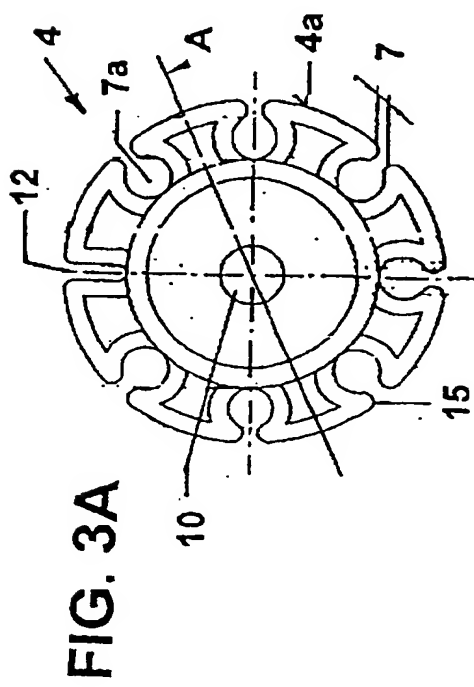


FIG. 3A

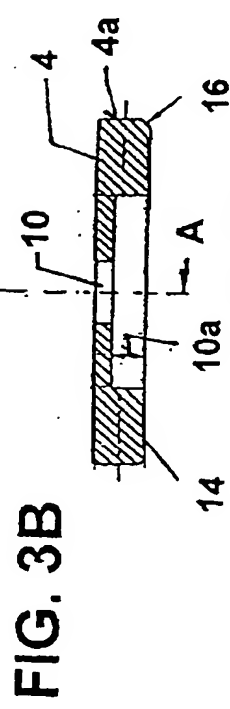


FIG. 3B

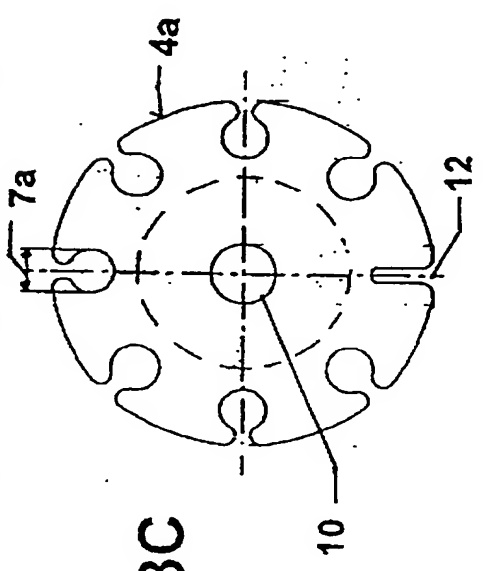


FIG. 3C

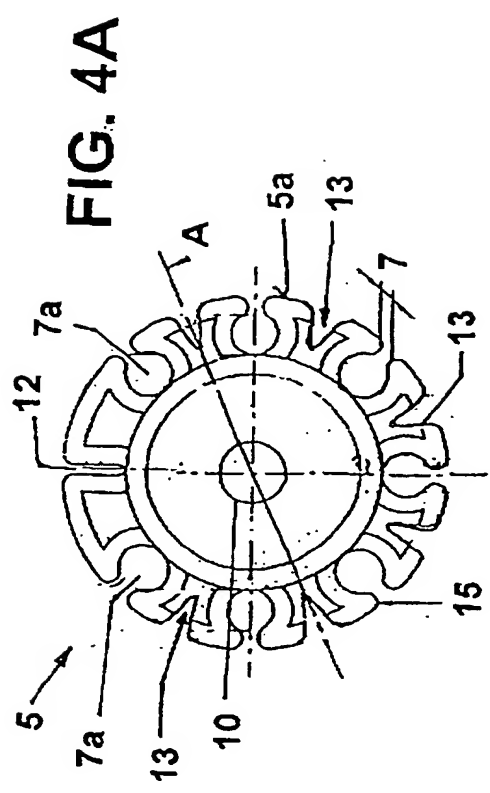


FIG. 4A

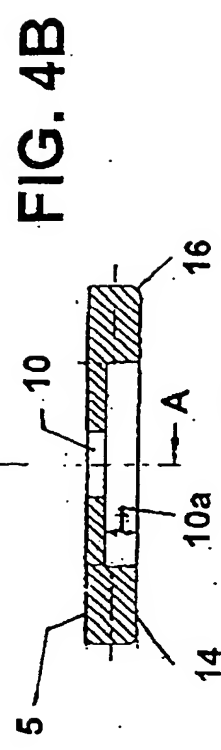


FIG. 4B

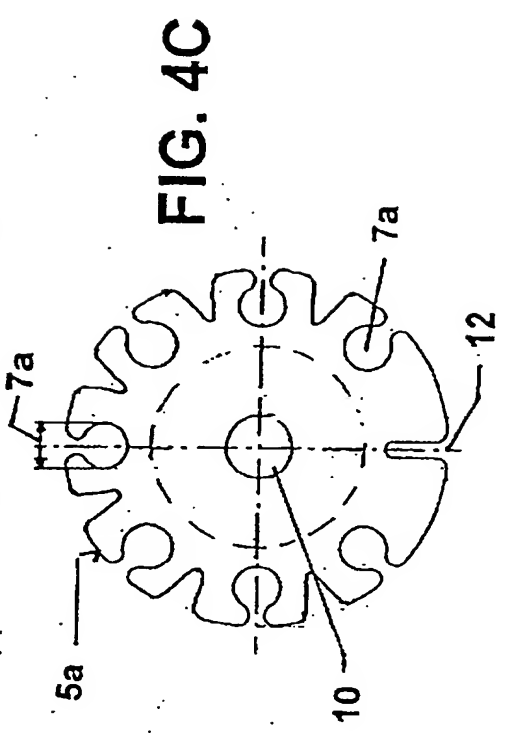


FIG. 4C